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'Roselow' Sargent crabapple





'Roselow' Sargent crabapple

'Roselow' Sargent crabapple (*Malus sargentii* Rehd.) is a short, compact woody plant. It can be used in both farmstead and field windbreaks and its abundant tiny red fruit attract songbirds.

Description

'Roselow' is a rounded and densely branched shrub. One of the smallest crabapples, it reaches a height of only 8 feet (2.5 m). In mid-May its pink buds produce single white flowers about one-half inch (12 mm) in diameter. Dark red fruit appear before the leaves drop and remain on the plant all winter.

Availability

'Roselow' planting stock is generally available from commercial nurseries in the Midwest. Commercial nurseries use open-pollinated seed to propagate the shrub. SCS maintains Breeder seed at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center in East Lansing, Michigan.

For more information on where you can buy 'Roselow' and how to use and plant it, contact your local SCS office. It is listed in your telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

Establishment

To plant 'Roselow,' follow the planting dates and spaces recommended for shrubs in your area. In the temperate zone, it should be planted in the spring as soon as frost is out of the ground, generally before May 15 or June 1. The maximum spacing between plants should be 10 feet (3 m). Two-year-old seedlings are suitable for mechanical planting.

To ensure establishment, control weeds during the first few years. Once 'Roselow' is established, you can use approved herbicides for effective weed control. Whenever you use a herbicide, be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions carefully.

'Roselow' Sargent crabapple seed was first collected from evaluation plantings by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) at its Elsberry Plant Materials Center in Missouri. SCS established the shrubs in 1940 at Elsberry using seedlings obtained from the horticultural farm at Iowa State University.

Like other crabapples, 'Roselow' is susceptible to borers, the eastern tent caterpillar, and San Jose scale. But because it is a native of the Orient, it is not an alternate host for juniper rust.

'Roselow' usually produces an abundant crop of fruit averaging 27 pounds (12 kg) per shrub. Each shrub provides 0.8 pound (0.4 kg) of clean seed. Seedlings are easily propagated from seeds sown in nursery beds in late October. One pound of seed will produce about 5,000 plants.



'Roselow' Sargent crabapple can be used in farmstead and field windbreaks.



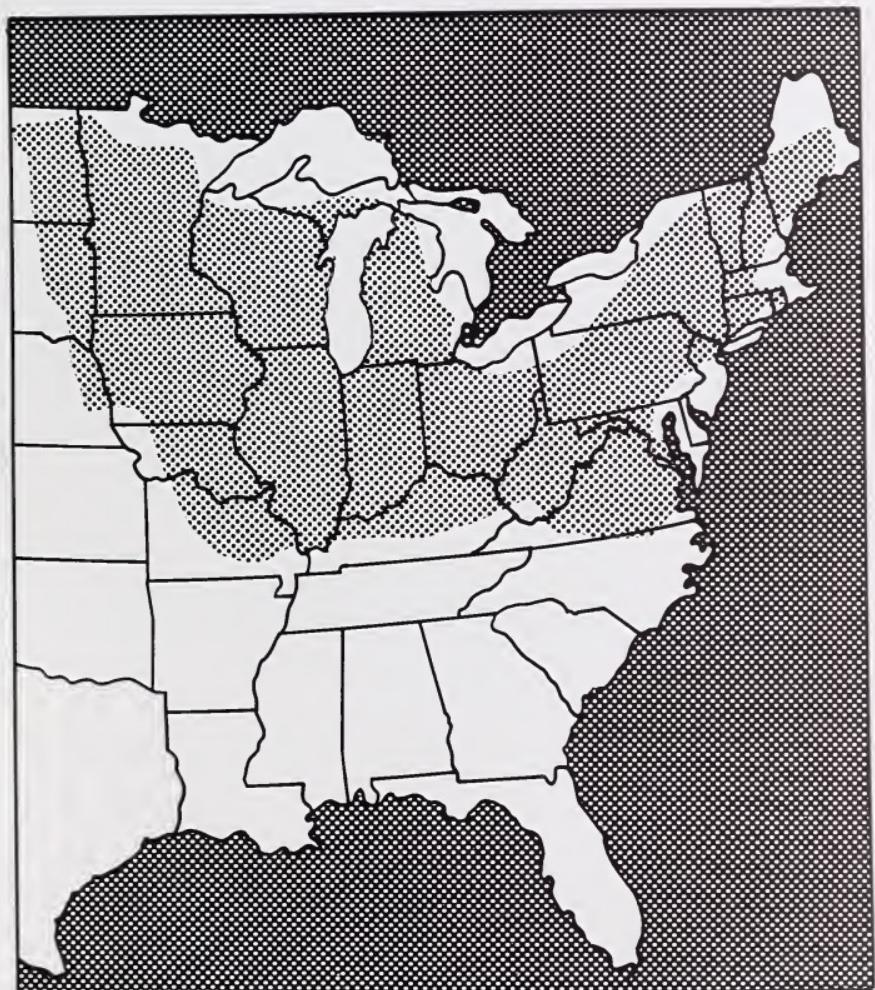
The tiny red fruit of 'Roselow' Sargent crabapple attract songbirds.

Adaptation

'Roselow' can grow wherever apples prove hardy, but it has been grown primarily in the East and Midwest. (See the adaptation map.) Both establishment and performance have been good. The shrub is adapted to a wide variety of soils but grows better on sandy soils where rainfall is adequate.



A windbreak of 'Roselow' Sargent crabapple.



Area of adaptation of 'Roselow' Sargent crabapple.

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